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## THE FOUNDING OF RHINELANDER

Please send me any information you may have on the early history of Rhinelander and Oneida County.

MISS B. SIMMONS, *Rhineland*

Your community is so new that your local history may be obtained from persons now living in it. It would be wise to gather in the reminiscences of the pioneers before it is too late.

Oneida County was organized in 1885 from Lincoln County. Consult Wisconsin Historical Society *Proceedings*, 1908, on Oneida County organization and the changes in its boundary. This region had been for hundreds of years the home of the Indians, those of the Chippewa tribe having lived there from the seventeenth century. *Wis. Hist. Colls.* xix, 202, gives an account of a fur trader among these Indians in 1804. All these traders were French-Canadians, who came and went and left little trace, yet they may be called the first white men in Oneida County.

Rhineland was, like most northern Wisconsin towns, the child of the railway. The Milwaukee, Lake Shore & Western Railway was organized about 1870; it was foreclosed under a mortgage in 1875 and bought in by a group of New York capitalists headed by Mr. F. W. Rhinelander. Mr. Rhinelander had great faith in the future possibilities and present resources of northern Wisconsin. His company began building north. By 1882 the railway had reached Summit Lake, with the line graded to Pelican Lake. By 1883 the road had been pushed beyond Pelican Lake, with a spur 15.7 miles long from Monico to the mouth of Pelican River, which was chosen by the president of the road as the site to which he gave his own name. Whatever settlement had been there before was called Pelican Station. Settlers came in so rapidly that by 1890 there were 2658 persons in the village of Rhinelander. The Milwaukee, Lake Shore & Western Railway sold to the Chicago & Northwestern in 1893, and after that the Rhinelander family was no longer connected with this region. The Rhinelander family is one of the old landholding families of New York City. The first in America (1686) was Philip Jacob Rhinelander, who was exiled from France by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes—that is, in the dispersion of

the Huguenots. The family home was on the Rhine, but in territory which was a part of France. Philip Jacob settled at New Rochelle, New York, and there died in 1737. His son William removed to New York City and was buried in Trinity churchyard in 1777. His landed property has been kept together as the Rhinelander estate and has become very valuable. William's son William II bought as a sugar house a building which was used as a prison for Americans during the Revolution. This historic monument known as Rhinelander's Sugar House existed until 1892.

William Rhinelander II (1753-1825) had two sons, William C. (1790-1876) and Frederick William. The latter had a son and a grandson of the same name. President Rhinelander of the Milwaukee, Lake Shore & Western was either the second or the third of the name. The family is now represented by Philip, bishop of the Episcopal Church.

### THE CAREER OF MARINETTE

We have had several inquiries lately about the meaning of the name of our city, Marinette. As far as our records show, the name Marinette had no special significance except as it was the name of the Menominee Indian girl who married John Jacobs, and who was well known in early days for her business ability. Have you any further information as to the meaning of the name?

GLADYS M. ANDREWS, *Marinette*

In the Patrick Papers we find a manuscript "History of Marinette" by Dr. John J. Sherman, in which the author says that Marinette Jacobs, from whom the town takes its name, was born in 1793 at Post Lake, the source of Post River, one of the principal tributaries of the Peshtigo River. She was a daughter of a Chippewa woman and a Frenchman named Chevalier, of whom but little is known.

From our records we can add something about Marinette's father. His name was Barthélemy Chevalier, and he was for some time a resident of Green Bay. After his death his widow lived at this place. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, x, 138. See also the baptismal record of Marinette's older sister in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xix, 85. The name Marinette was probably an abbreviation of Marie Antoinette. It is quite possible that Chevalier may have